

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT

DATE OF INFORMATION

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1.

The Kotovsk School for Junior Specialists and the SHMAS (Shkola Mladshikh Avio Spetsialistov) were one and the same school. The completion of formal schooling was not necessary to enter this school, and upon the completion of studies, the men were classified as assistant mechanics.

2.

The courses offered at the Kotovsk School for Junior Specialists were in the field of mechanics, radio, electricity, instruments, armament and the oxygen system. All these courses lasted six to nine months and upon the completion of studies, the men were classified as assistant mechanics in their respective field, since they were taught only the basic fundamentals of that field. The men who completed the course at the head of their class were automatically sent to a military aviation mechanics school. The other men must serve as assistant mechanics for at least 1½ years before they could apply for further training in their respective fields.

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The differences between the junior aviation schools and the military aviation mechanics school were as follows: students who entered the junior aviation schools were not required to possess a specific degree of formal education; secondly, upon completion of the course the graduates were classified and assigned as assistant mechanics to a special field of study; thirdly, the course lasted six to nine months. Students who attended the military aviation mechanics schools were required to have completed at least seven years of formal education and, upon graduation, were classified and assigned as aviation mechanics, and, in certain instances, such as honor graduates, were given a commission as junior technical lieutenant. The course lasted at least 1½ - two years.

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The only school for air gunners and radio operators was the Chkalov School for Gunners and Radio Operators, located at Chkalov /49°56'N-44°39'E/. The course lasted a year and a half and every radio operator was trained as an aerial gunner as well. Admittance regulations to this school required the applicant to have completed at least seven years of formal education.

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The courses at the aviation institutes lasted three years. Such institutes were located in Kharkov /49°57'N-48°45'E/, Kiev /50°27'N-30°32'E/, Moscow and Sverdlovsk /48°05'N-39°41'E/. The applicant to these schools was required to have completed 10 years of formal education.

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The NCO mechanics who volunteered to become junior technical lieutenants were not given any course of instruction. Up to 1950, however, NCO mechanics who requested and were accepted as future junior technical lieutenants, were given a six months' course in their respective field at the division headquarters. After 1950 there was a shortage of junior technical lieutenants. Men who volunteered submitted their applications, which were then sent to Moscow for approval or disapproval. The men selected in this manner were awarded a commission as junior technical lieutenant without any further instruction. It was necessary that applicants be graduates of a military aviation mechanics school and also fully qualified mechanics.

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The NCO volunteer program was definitely due to the shortage of technical officers.

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